

VZCZCXYZ0002  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHUL #2109 1770807  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 260807Z JUN 06  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8645  
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OSD/ISA/EAP// PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA J2 SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA J3 SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA J5 SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA SCJS SEOUL KOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 002109

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

OSD/ISA/AP FOR LTC FINNEGAN  
JOINT STAFF J5/NEA FOR LTC DEALE  
PACOM FOR MR. HUGO AND LTC MUNIPALI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/21/2014  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [KS](#)  
SUBJECT: NOGUN-RI: MUCCIO LETTER AND SCHOLARSHIP

REF: SEOUL 1972

Classified By: A/DCM Joseph Y. Yun. Reasons 1.4 (b,d).

11. (U) This is an action request.

12. (C) Following up DG Cho Taeyong's June 11 discussion with EAP PDAS Stephens (reftel), MOFAT North American Division II Director Shin Sungwon requested USG's positive response on the Muccio letter and scholarship extension. Presenting a nonpaper (text in para 3) to PolMil Chief on June 23, Shin said the ROKG was reasonably confident that it would be able to resolve the scholarship issue with the Nogun-ri group, if the USG would extend the funding for another year. On the Muccio letter, Shin emphasized the need to develop a coordinated explanation to avoid further controversy.

13. (C) Begin text of MOFAT's nonpaper:

Concerning the May 29 report of the AP, on the letter dated July 25, 1950, from the then U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, John J. Muccio, to Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk, we would like to ask your government for clarification on the following points.

- The AP reported that the microfilm containing the letter of Ambassador Muccio was included in the U.S. Army's own list of sources for the 1999-2001 investigation, implying that the letter had already been reviewed by the U.S. investigation team, but was not incorporated in the 2001 No Gun Ri Review.

- If the letter had already been reviewed, it is not easily understandable how the existence of the letter was not informed to our side during not only the 1999-2001 investigation, but even after the publication of the 2001 No Gun Ri Review.

We would like to ask the U.S. Government that the scholarship funds allocated for the memory of the No Gun Ri victims, which the U.S. Embassy in Seoul informed us as expiring by the end of September 2006, be extended, taking into consideration that the list of No Gun Ri victims were confirmed just at the beginning of this year.

- In addition, we would like to ask you that the extent of the beneficiaries of the scholarship funds be narrowed down to the families of the No Gun Ri victims.

We look forward hearing from the U.S. Government on the above issues.

End text.

¶4. (C) Action Request/Comment: We would appreciate the Department/OSD's response to MOFAT's request. Given MOFAT's determination to work the scholarship issue, we believe the request for one more extension of funding merits positive consideration.

VERSHBOW